An Outline of Dispensational Truth Fundamental To All Bible Study



SECTION 1

THREE INTRODUCTORY LECTURES ON

"GOD'S GREAT PROPHECIES"

A discussion of the General Outlines, Fundamental Principles and Scriptural Methods of interpreting Prophecy.

If we are to have a reliable superstructure we must lay carefully the foundation.

Most speculations and errors are the result of faulty principles and ignorance of general divisions of time.

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A Handful of Important Facts

- 1. **Prophecy is history foretold.** History is prophecy fulfilled. God knows the end from the beginning.
- 2. The Word of God Is Absolutely Reliable.

"God is not a man that He should lie; nor the son of man that He should repent; Hath He said and shall He not do it? Hath He spoken and shall He not make it good?—Num. 23:19.

4. Christ Declared That It All Must Be Fulfilled.

"For verily I say unto you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the Law TILL ALL BE FULFILLED."—Matt. 5:18.

5. Man has been WARNED not to tamper with or change the plain statements of the WORD.

"Ye shall not add unto the WORD which I command you, neither shall ye diminish OUGHT from it."—Deut. 4:2.

God's Great Division of the World's History.

In beginning a series of studies of this kind, one might expect at the start to hear a word or two with respect to the INDIVIDUAL'S ATTI-TUDE TO PROPHECY.

AN UNWARRANTED ANTAGONISM

I am not saying something entirely new to you, I am sure, when I state that there is a bitter, unwarranted antagonistic spirit shown in some quarters today to the study of PROPHECY. It is rather hard to understand it. However, we do know the DEVIL himself and all his agents never did like GOD'S PROPHECY.

GOD KNOWS THE END FROM THE BEGINNING

It is evident that every man who believes that there is a God, worthy of His worship and reverence, must accept the fact that God knows the end from the beginning or, as Scripture puts it, "Known unto God are all His works, from the beginning of the world."

This knowledge we find is so minute and individual that the Lord Jesus on one occasion declared that the very hairs of the head were numbered, and not a sparrow falleth to the ground without the knowledge of the Heavenly Father.

Every Bible student knows that over and over again it is stated in the Book that God has a plan which he purposes to carry out carefully and minutely as the world rushes on. As it is of God, the plan or purpose cannot fail in one jot or tittle, but must be fulfilled completely and perfectly.

Further, you have found no doubt that this plan not only reaches the Christians who are glad to say, "All things work together for good to those that love the Lord, to those who are called according to HIS PURPOSE"; but also applies in its fullest detail to unborn infants, to wicked men and to rebellious nations. I shall not take time to go into this in any elaborate fashion just now, but simply ask you to turn with me to two or three passages which definitely declare it:—

(1) ROMANS 9, 11-12: "For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God, according to election, might stand, not of works but of Him that calleth, it was said unto her, "the elder shall serve the younger."

You see that God declares He knew before the birth of the twins, Jacob and Esau, what would happen to them and, more than that, He also revealed it to the mother. I say, therefore, God's plan applies to unborn children. (2) It also applies to wicked men who deliberately oppose the right—

ROMANS 9, 17: "For the Scripture saith unto Pharaoh, 'Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might show my power in thee and that my name might be declared through all the earth."

Here you see that Pharaoh in his deliberate wickedness was carrying out God's plan with regard to Israel. (3) But God's purposes also reach the nations of the world as well as the individual—

* ACTS 17, 26: "And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation."

This shows us that He not only has fixed the boundaries of the nations, but that His hand is also to be found in their history. You need not be surprised if you find after the PEACE, now being deliberated upon, is fully signed that the divisions of Europe may be entirely in accord with God's Prophecy. This surely attracts us to the study of God's Prophecy, as revealed in the Holy Scriptures. Let us turn now to Ezek. 39, 2-4: "Son of man, set thy face against GOG, the land of Magog, the chief Prince of Meshech, and Tubal, and prophesy against him and say, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold I am against thee Gog, the Prince of Meshech and Tubal and I will turn thee back, and put hooks into thy jaws, and I will bring thee forth, and all thine army, horses and horsemen, all of them clothed with all sorts of armor, even a great company with bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords."

The expression Gog and Magog refers plainly to countries of Northern Europe and Asia. The terms Meshech and Tubal or Moscow and Tolbolsk, are surely significant of Russia. Now read verse 13, "Sheba and Dedan, and the merchants of Tarshish with all the young lions thereof shall say unto thee art thou come to take a spoil?" Evidently the merchants of Tarshish and the young lions thereof cover Great Britain and her Colonies, as well as the United States. But all this we shall deal with later. Remember just now, please, that GOD'S PLAN reaches the great nations as well as the individuals.

GOD HAS REVEALED HIS PLAN TO MANKIND

Now since God certainly has a plan for this world, is it any wonder to us to find that He has revealed it to mankind? The revelation of God's plan or purpose for the world is called PROPHECY, and it is to this revelation that your attention is called in a systematic way in the course of these lectures. As we open our Bibles we find that GOD has in a most elaborate way revealed His purposes in detail. GOD is the author of light. He does not work in the dark, nor does He desire us to live in the dark with respect to the great events that are about to come upon us in this world.

A GREAT INTEREST IN PROPHECY

It is rather interesting to note that the Church of Christ has now, for nearly half a century, been led in the Providence of God to an extensive and intensive consideration of Prophecy. Conferences are being held the world over to investigate the truths of GOD'S own WORD. If you and I have not kept pace it is because we have been blinded by the Devil or some of his agents, for you know that they hate and hinder in every way they can the study of Prophecy.

May GOD help us to break loose from their chains at once, and fear not to study the BOOK of books, GOD'S WORD.

Earnest men and women the world over are being awakened today from indifference and neglect of this great subject to an earnest, holy and anxious concern in its examination.

I am also glad to say that as sincere minds have more and more been concentrated and consecrated to the study of GOD'S prophetical revelations, they have begun to realize more and more that this Blessed old BOOK from first to last is one harmonious whole. There are no contradictions in it and neither could there be since it is GOD'S Inspired Word.

This fact has become like a wedge driven into humanity at the present time separating us into two great camps—

- 1. Those who are finding harmony and unity in the WORD OF GOD and who, therefore, are able to accept its statements as authoritative; and,
- 2. Those who claim that there are contradictions and errors in the BIBLE, and who hold a creed out of harmony with its plain statements.

Now, it seems to me if anyone finds his professed beliefs out of harmony and contradictory to the plain statements of Scripture, he should hesitate before setting his creed up in opposition to GOD'S WORD and declaring the BIBLE in error. Especially when he knows that scores of men the world over are finding consistency and harmony in all the statements of the BIBLE.

WHY STUDY PROPHECY?

If anyone is desirous of knowing GOD'S WILL and PURPOSE for this world, there surely can be no question whatever in regard to whether Prophecy should be studied or not. What does the Bible say itself?

- I II. Pet. 1, 19: "We have also a more sure WORD OF PROPHECY, whereunto ye do WELL to TAKE HEED, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day-star arise in your hearts." Notice the admonition—"Ye do well to take heed." In the face of these words what excuse can a true CHRISTIAN make for neglecting its study?
- 2. In Rev. 1, 3, the greatest Prophetic Book of the New Testament, we find BLESSINGS promised to the "one who reads and they that understand the statements of the BOOK." But tell me how can anyone read and understand the BOOK of Revelation who has not given any time to the study of the principles and outlines of PROPHECY as a whole? It is like asking a man to do higher mathematics, who does not know perfectly the multiplication tables. You need not be surprised then if you hear some men or some preachers say that the BOOK of Revelation is a lot of foolishness, for no man can read intelligently or hope to understand Revelation. who is prejudiced against, and has never given any time to the study of PROPHECY.
 - 3 Hear what CHRIST Himself says-

Luke 24, 25: "O Fools, and slow of heart to believe ALL that the PROPHETS have spoken."

In the face of these plain statements how can any intelligent person offer any objection to Prophetic Study? Yes, I can go a step further: How can any professed follower of the LORD JESUS be consistent, professing to believe the WORD of CHRIST, and yet neglecting to give any heed to ALL that the Prophets have spoken, when he hears these words of the MASTER?

Some tell us it is not essential. Essential? Hear me. It is a fact that many have been led to believe in CHRIST through its study, and scores of others have been edified in the Christian Faith through its acceptance. I myself bear my testimony to this last statement. It was through its study that I became a Bible student at all. I want to say to you then that it must be a prejudiced or biassed person who will say it is not essential when people everywhere are being greatly helped by it. ALL TRUTH is essential. CHRIST said, "Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." I would rather ten times over hear about some of GOD'S prophecy than some of the non-essential stuff we hear from the platforms and pulpits of today. If it is a matter of time why not cut out some of the Socialistic and political and economic arguments and give us more of GOD'S OWN WORD?

It has been too much the fashion with some to think that if they can only secure salvation they need care little for what is beyond. Bible study does not interest them. They are doing the best they can to be saved and the result is that a great many professing Christians never open their Bibles from one year's end to another. I want to say very decidedly that no one, whether preacher or layman, can truly declare himself to be a Bible student or Bible teacher who has not at least begun the study of Prophecy.

THREE CLASSES OPPOSED TO PROPHECY

I am perfectly aware that there are three classes of people that will take no great interest in the study of GOD'S Prophecy—

- 1. The Worldly Man or Woman. The man with the muck-rake whose heart is bound up with the business of the world, and who thinks of nothing else; or, the woman with the soap-bubbles, who thinks of nothing but social affairs and butterfly fashions; or, the Christian, who has lost all interest in the salvation of souls, as he partakes of what the world has to offer, or wastes his time in semi-Christian organizations. These ALL will be indisposed to its study, for it condemns them severely and points out their folly. Hear me, the study of the prophecy of the Imminent Return of the LORD has opened the eyes of many a Christian to the folly of worldliness.
- 2. The Proud-Minded Man Who Has Never Studied It. The second class that may hesitate to take much interest in its study are those who have never studied it to any extent, and therefore feel themselves ignorant of it. They are too proud to start it and admit their ignorance, so they keep away from it. This is folly on their part, for the fact is the majority of people are merely beginners at the subject and have much to learn. Especially does one feel that way when he begins to recognize the bulk of revelation that GOD has given us.
- 3. The Prejudiced and Biassed. These fear it will overthrow some pet theory or doctrine that they have been taught. "See what a change it would make in my doctrines," say they. Well, what of that? It is better to let all that go which is not in accord with GOD'S WORD than to continue in it. "Oh," says one, "I fear it might drive some people crazy." Hear me, please; it will never drive anyone to infidelity. That's certain, and I would rather die a crazy man than an infidel. It is useless to argue, however, for prejudice and reason are not hand-maidens. All I say is remember what Jesus said, "A man is a fool who will not believe all that the prophets have spoken." The fool is surely the one who should fear insanity. How can we believe the prophets if we refuse to study them?

THE CALL OF THE PRESENT HOUR

Living in such a day as we live, when great and stupendous events are happening on all sides, I should judge that all of us would be most desirous to know and understand something of GOD'S Prophecy. When events so rapid in their succession as they are startling in their magnitude, terribleness and far-reaching consequences, chase each other like waves of the sea, or come upon us like falling stars on a winter's evening, I think we should be looking to the GOD of Heaven to make known to us what it all means,

When Herod was aroused in his day by the startling mission of a group of wise men from the East, he demanded where Christ was to be born. However, the priests of that day were very ignorant regarding GOD'S Prophecy. After a diligent search they found the definite statement, "In Bethlehem of Judea," and thus they declared. Then these earnest kings of the East investigated and found the Christ in Bethlehem just as the prophets had said. I tell you, brethren, if it has pleased GOD to make one-third of the Old Testament and one whole book of the New, prophecy, not to mention a great deal of the Pauline Epistles and much of Christ's own teaching, it surely behooves us in the face of the startling events of the present day to give some heed to the study of GOD'S Prophecies.

THE FOUR GREAT DIVISIONS OF THE WORLD'S HISTORY

The first and simplest thing we all must know in the study of Prophecy is GOD'S Great Divisions of the World's History. If we carefully prepare ourselves in the foundation truths of prophecy we will not need to fear fanaticism or insanity. It is only those who have neglected the fundamental principles and divisions of prophetical study that rush into the fallacies and heresies produced by speculation. Get clearly in mind then and never confuse GOD'S Great Divisions of the World's History. There are four of them—

- 1. The Beginning of Things—the Peopling of the Earth. This period lasted from the creation until the dispersion of the human race to the four quarters of the earth at the time of the building of the tower of Babel. After this GOD deals, during the next three periods, with the three sections into which he has divided the human race. You should know these also:—
 - I. COR. 10, 32: "Give no offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the Church of God."

Every man or woman in the world then belongs to one of these three—the Jew, the Gentile or the Church of GOD.

2. The Time of the Hebrews. In the 2nd period GOD dealt with the Hebrews, beginning with the Call of Abram out of Ur of the Chaldees, and continuing down to the time of Nebuchadnezzar, when through idolatry God allowed Israel to be led captive into Babylonia. There are some who ignorantly suppose as they read the story thus far that the time of the Hebrews is ended. This is not so.

ROM. 11. 25: "For I would not, brethern, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits, that blindness in part is happened to Israel until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in."

Remember, therefore, that Israel's blindness is only temporary. They will yet return to their own land and be blessed by the Almighty GOD during the millennium.

This simple fact does certainly quicken one's interest in the Zionistic Movement that you read so much about in the papers. Listen, all the true Israel shall be brought back to the Holy Land, Palestine—every one of them. Not only those who are at present scattered among the nations, but also those who are dead—Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, David, Solomon and Daniel, etc.—when Jesus comes and sets up His Kingdom they shall be raised and all gathered there. So the LORD Jesus tells us.

MATT. 8, 11: "And I say unto you, that many shall come from the East and West and shall sit down with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob in the Kingdom of Heaven."

The 37th Chap, of Ezek, is also significant in this respect. In this chapter we have both phases of the restoration brought out. Not only the resurrection, but the regathering also—

Verse 12: "Therefore prophesy and say unto them—Thus saith the Lord God: Behold, O my people, I will open your graves and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel."

Verse 21: "And say unto them—Thus saith the Lord God: Behold, I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen whither they be gone and will gather them on every side and bring them into their own land."

Remember, then that although the Jews will go back to Palestine in unbelief, they will never be restored to the Promised Land completely until the Messiah comes to be their king.

3. The Times of the Gentiles. The third great division of the World's History is the Times of the Gentiles, which began with the Babylonian

Empire under Nebuch, and which has continued down through the four great empires as proclaimed in the interpretation of the great dream image (Dan. 2), and which will end up in the 5th world empire, the Confederacy of Nations, as represented by the feet and toes of the image of the dream. This 5th empire is not yet in existence. There is no world-controlling power today and yet Jesus spake of the fulfilment of the Gentile times as future to His day—

LUKE 21, 24: "And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations; and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled."

The only conclusion we can make from this is that the Gentile clock has stopped during this dispensation in which we live, but it will be started again as soon as this day of GRACE has ended.

- 4. The Dispensation of Grace. The fourth division is the one in which we live—the time of the CHURCH—the dispensation of the Grace of GOD. It began at Pentecost and will continue until the Rapture spoken of in—
 - I. THESS. 4, 16-17: "The Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord."

This glorious event is just at hand. It may happen at any moment and then the times of the Gentiles will be recommenced and rapidly brought to a close.

These then are the four chief Prophetical divisions into which GOD has divided the Worlds' History, and these we must first get clearly in mind before we attempt further detail, for remember the truths pertaining to one period do not apply to the time of another, and here is where many an error has crept in. When a man tells you that the second seal or the 6th vial of the closing-up time of the Gentiles are occurring now you know that he has not yet clearly grasped these great fundamental Prophetic divisions. When anyone declares that we are in the Day of the LORD which pertains clearly to the last of the times of the Hebrews, you know at once that he has not given the subject of prophecy very much careful and systematic thought.

I tell you it is absolutely necessary for you rightly to divide Scripture if you wish to be a workman of GOD that needeth not to be ashamed.

II. TIM. 2, 15: "Study to show thyself approved of God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of Truth."

If we do not rightly divide Scripture we shall sooner or later be face to face with what appears to be contradictions; and this leads me to go further into detail on this matter and refer to the three attitudes that people assume to the Bible.

THE THREE METHODS OF ACCEPTING BIBLE TRUTH

1. The "Pick-and-Choose" Method. There are some who only partially accept the Bible. They will believe the Words of Christ perchance, but none other. They cast aside altogether the Old Testament. This is an illogical and impossible position for anyone to maintain. Jesus again and again placed His approval upon all that the prophets had written. Hence if a man accepts Christ's Words he must logically accept the Old Testament. The Bible itself also declares—II. Tim. 3, 16: "ALL Scripture is given by inspiration of GOD and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." It therefore behooves us, if we are really sincere and earnest in the search of truth, to accept as reliable and authoritative every part of the BIBLE.

- 2. The Holus-Bolus Attitude. There are others who accept the whole Bible holus-bolus-from cover to cover they say. They apply the statements of the Old Testament to our day with equal force as they do the Pauline Epistles. They make no divisions whatever. Thus we have the Roman Catholic offering incense on the altar as the priests did of old. And the Seventh Day Adventists are trying to keep Saturday, the seventh day, as Sabbath just as the Jews did long ago in Palestine. And we have also the religious Vegetarians , who declare that we must eat no meat, just as Adam and Eve did in the Garden of Eden and so one could go on enumerating. This is truly the result of accepting the Bible from cover to cover holus-bolus. And mark you well, this holus-bolus attitude leads sooner or later to contradictions and produces doctrines which are out of harmony with the plain statements of the Bible. Take the Vegetarian position on the food question for example, and suppose now I make no divisions of the Bible whatever, but accept it holus-bolus from cover to cover, how am I to know GOD'S will regarding what we should eat-whether I should eat meat or not.
- Gen. 1, 29, is the command given to Adam and Eve in innocence—"Behold I have given you every herb bearing seed which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree in which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed: to you it shall be for meat." I judge at once that a fruit and herb diet is intended by GOD. I read on—

Gen. 9,3-4: "Every moving thing that liveth shall be meat for you: even as the green herb have I given you all things. But flesh with the life thereof, which is the blood thereof shall ye not eat." Now here I am face to face with a counter command. I can not obey both at the same This is perplexing, but I turn on and I find that when the Lord time visited Abraham, the man of faith prepared roast veal, biscuits, butter and milk for his entertainment (see Gen. 18, 6-8). Still I read on—Lev. 11, 7-8: "And the swine, though he divide the hoof, and be cloven-footed, yet he cheweth not the cud: he is unclean to you. Of their flesh ye shall not eat, and their carcase shall ye not touch." Here man is strictly forbidden under the Mosaic Law to use pork, ham or bacon. How now? In one passage it allows every living thing as meat and here it forbids the use of some. I can not obey both. Then we come to the New Testament, to our dispensation of grace, and we read--Col. 2, 16: "Let no man judge you in meat or in drink or in respect to an holy day, or of the new moon or of the Sabbath days." Over in I. Tim. 4, 3, we are warned that there shall come in the latter days some deceived ones commanding us to abstain from meats. Now what am I, a holus-bolus reader of the Bible, to do about it? There is only one answer. Do what GOD tells us in II. Tim. 2, 15: "Study to show thyself approved of GOD, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed. RIGHTLY DIVIDING the Word of Truth."

Rightly divide the Scriptures and you will find that each of these passages refer to a different dispensation. The truth of one dispensation can not be applied to another. Hear me, please. You must get this clear if you are ever going to understand your Bible.

Not only has GOD divided the world's history into four great periods, but he has also subdivided these periods into dispensations.

THE DISPENSATIONS OF THE SCRIPTURES

The first great period, the beginning of things covers three dispensations—

- 1. Innocence from the Creation to the Fall, as described in Genesis, Chap. 1 to 3.
- 2. Conscience from the Fall and expulsion from Eden to the Flood, outlined in Genesis, Chap. 4 to 8.

3. Human government from the Flood to the Tower of Babel, covered by Genesis, Chap. 9 to 11.

In each of these GOD dealt with man under a different covenant.

Further, in dealing with the HEBREWS, GOD has revealed three dispensations—

- 1. Promise—from the Call of Abraham to the Egyptian bondage, covered by Genesis, Chap. 12 to 50.
- 2. Law—from Mt. Sinai to the Coming of Christ, the Messiah, as revealed from Exodus to Acts and also Revelation.
- 3. The Kingdom or Millennium—beginning with the glorious Coming of Christ and continuing to the end of the world, outlined principally by the prophets of the Old and New Testaments.

This makes six dispensations, the number of man. But GOD has another, his own peculiar one, known as the dispensation of the Grace of God.

In the midst of the dispensation of Law, God allowed blindness to come over Israel and permitted the Gentiles to usurp control. Then in the midst of this usurpation by the Gentiles GOD has stepped in, stopped all world kingdoms and has revealed His loving heart to the world. The dispensation of the Grace of GOD began at Pentecost, after the death, resurrection and ascension of Christ and will continue until the rapture. This is the dispensation in which we live. It is the highest of all and yet the simplest. God offers today to enter into covenant relations with any man—hear me, please—with ANY MAN on the basis of Christ's Death. If you want to have dealings with GOD today you can only do so through the blood of the Lord Jesus.

ACTS 4, 12: "Neither is there salvation in any other for there is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved."

GOD is now calling out of the world a people for His name. One of these days Christ will appear in yonder cloud and we shall be caught up to meet Him in the air. May GOD help us to be ready.

God's Prophecy with Regard to the Gentile World-Empires

Having noted carefully the fundamental divisions of the World's History we are now able to proceed. A clear understanding of these divisions will at once sweep away from us the many errors that are made by reading into our dispensation statements with regard to a future one.

God Has Shown Us How to Read and Interpret Prophecy.

In pursuance of our study I want to call your attention to another very important fact that we must set down as BASIC in our deliberations. It is this, GOD has not only revealed to us His great plan and purpose in regard to the events of this world, but he has also over and over again shown us how to read and interpret the prophecy. Have you noted this and are you following His instructions? If not, you can be at once assured that you are being side-tracked. Hear what GOD says—

II. PET. 1, 20-21: "Knowing this FIRST that no prophecy is of any private interpretation. For prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."

Note here, please, that GOD makes this a foundation principle, a primary lesson. "Know this first," He says. What? That no prophecy should ever be taken out of its setting, but should be interpreted in accordance with the rest of the Bible. In other words, the Bible itself is the best interpreter of prophecy. Let me illustrate—

GEN. 22, 17-18: "Thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed."

You see at once this prophetic promise is given to Abraham in his covenant. Now what does it mean? I submit that if we are to decide by men's interpretations we shall vary as the stars. But GOD has interpreted this passage and therefore clears the way for us.

GAL. 3, 16: "Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not to seeds as of many, but as of one—And to thy seed which is Christ."

The promises spoken of above will therefore be fulfilled in Christ during the Millennium. It would be well nigh unto blasphemy to give it any other interpretation. Remember that GOD tells us the Scriptures are the best interpreters of Prophecy. The trouble with most of us is that we break away from GOD'S WORD through ignorance and the first thing we know we are running on some man's opinions.

A FURTHER SAFEGUARD

Jesus also suggested to us a further safeguard in our reading of Prophecy—

MATT. 24, 32-33: "Now learn a parable of the fig tree; when his branch is yet tender and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh. So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors."

When you see certain parts of prophecy fulfilled you are able to know how other parts of that same prophecy are going to be fulfilled and thereby you can know that the end of time is near. GOD does not need to interpret all prophecy. All He needs to do in many cases is to combine certain prophecies together and when you see how the first part was fulfilled then you may be able to know that the rest will follow likewise. For illustration—

GEN. 3, 14-15: "And the Lord God said unto the Serpent, because thou hast done this, thou are cursed above all cattle . . . upon thy belly shalt thou go and dust thou shalt eat all the days of thy life. And I will put enmity between thee and the woman and between thy seed and her seed: It shall bruise thy head and thou shalt bruise his heel."

We say, was this prophecy of verse 14 literal? Was the serpent actually to go on his belly and eat the dust of the ground? Any child can answer that. They have seen the snake wriggling along in the dust.

Now again in verse 15 we ask, "Was the seed of the Serpent—the demons and wicked men—to bruise the seed of the woman—the Christ of GOD?" I say to you tonight that 10,000 times 10,000 and thousands of thousands can answer you that question with joy in their hearts, for GOD'S Word has declared it. Isa. 53, 5-6: "He was wounded for our transgressions: He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him and by His stripes we are healed." Yes, Christ was actually condemned and put to death by wicked men. Now since the first two parts of the prophecy has been literally fulfilled what process of reasoning will deny that the last part will also be literally fulfilled and Jesus Christ, our Lord, will yet bruise the head of Satan. Rom. 16, 20, reads: "And the God of Peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly." It has not been done yet, but listen—Rev. 20, 1-2: "I saw an angel come down from heaven having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand and he laid hold on the dragon, that old Serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan and bound him a thousand years."

Some tell us frankly they cannot understand this 20th Chapter of Revelation. Of course not, if they will not follow Christ's instructions. Turn to Isa. 65, 25: "The wolf and the lamb shall feed together and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: And dust shall be the Serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain saith the Lord."

The serpent eating the dust we see is literal. Yes, every one knows that. Very well! What about the wolf and the lamb eating together and the lion eating straw like a bullock? It must be literal also.

Again, read Luke 1, 31-33; "Behold thou shalt conceive in thy womb and bring forth a son and shall call His name Jesus. He shall be great and shall be called the Son of the Highest. And the Lord GOD shall give unto Him the throne of his father David, and he shall reign over the house of Jacob forever."

Was the birth of Jesus a literal fact? Was he a real child? You say history will vouch for that. Well then, do you mean to tell me that the throne of David is a mystical spiritual throne? And is the house of Jacob not real people? Men and women, we dare not play fast and loose with the WORD OF GOD. That would not be logical. It isn't good reasoning and would seem to be an attempt to evade the force of the WORD.

Again read Matt. 2, 4-6: "And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together he demanded of them where Christ should be born. And they said unto him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea: for thus it is written by the prophet," etc." Did this actually happen?

Was Jesus actually born in Bethlehem in literal fulfilment of the prophecy? Do you believe it was an actual city, that the wise men came to? Certainly! There can be no doubt that these were real priests and Herod was a real king and Jesus was a real babe and Bethlehem was a real city. Why then should anyone doubt the literalness of the fulfilment of Zech. 14, 4, which proclaims Christ's return to earth a second time. "And His feet shall stand in that day upon the Mount of Olives which is before Jesusalem on the East, etc." Why should anyone declare that his feet are not real feet and the Mount of Olives is not a real mountain, when its exact location is distinctly stated?

I warn you to beware of the person who deliberately departs from GOD'S own interpretation of Scripture and refuses to follow the suggestions of the Lord Jesus.

God's Outline of the Time of the Gentiles.

With these foundation principles clearly in mind let us turn our attention to GOD'S Outline of the Times of the Gentiles. I have already pointed out that in the Beginning period GOD dealt with mankind under three dispensations, viz., Innocence, Conscience and Human Government, and further, that He purposes to deal with the Hebrews under three dispensations, viz., Promise, Law and Kingdom. I pointed out further that today GOD is dealing with the Church of God under our present dispensation, offering us salvation and forgiveness of sins through the blood of Christ. I want you to note also that in the times of the Gentiles GOD does not deal with them under any covenant whatever. They are aliens and strangers to the covenant.

EPH. 2, 11-12: "Wherefore remember that ye being in time past Gentiles, in the flesh, who are called uncircumsion by that which is called circumcision in the flesh made by hands, that at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenant of promise, having no hope and without God in the World."

You see that the Gentiles have no place in GOD'S COVENANT relations except through CHRIST. So if we reject the LORD JESUS and refuse GOD'S offer of RECONCILIATION today we, as Gentiles, are without hope. Hence in regard to the Times of the Gentiles GOD has revealed no dispensations, but on the other hand has given us general outlines of their course. These outlines He gave at its very inception, for He knew from the beginning. He gave them in the form of a dream and the interpretation thereof, through DANIEL to Nebuchadnezzar. The wisest of the magicians and soothsayers of that day could not touch the problem that Nebuchadnezzar put to them, but GOD gave it to Daniel.

In Dan. 2, 31-35, we have a description of the image of the dream. I want you to note two things as we read it. 1. That there were FIVE distinct parts to the Image, viz., head, breast and arms, belly and thighs, legs, feet and toes. 2. That the Image was completely and disastrously destroyed by the STONE cut of the mountain without hands.

DAN, 2, 32-35: "This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass, his legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay. Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet, that were of iron and clay and brake them to pieces. Then was the iron ,the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them. And the stone that smote the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth."

Now for the interpretation. To what do these five parts refer? Verse 37 declares that the head of gold refers to BABYLON, an empire which had control of the whole world. Verse 39 states that after Babylon shall arise another world-empire, and then another. GOD'S WORD does not

tell us which these are. He did not need to. Having interpreted the first, by following his instructions we can easily know the others. The kingdom that overcame Babylon was Medo-Persia. The saints at the time of the Medo-Persian kingdom could have said, if they had known this prophecy, that three more kingdoms were yet to come. The next kingdom, overcoming Medo-Persia, and corresponding to the belly and thighs of the image, was the GRECIAN. And I repeat, if the saints had known this prophecy at the time of the Grecian kingdom they could have declared that two more world-empires were yet to arise. Now I say to you people today that four of these kingdoms have become literal history—Babylon. Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome, and I have no hesitation in declaring that the Fifth and last Gentile WORLD-EMPIRE must YET come upon this world, as a ten-king confederacy corresponding to the feet and toes of the image. This fact must surely arouse your interest in the LEAGUE OF NATIONS that they tell us must be formed to keep the world's peace. I am more and more convinced as I study the pages of GOD'S WORD that we are getting mighty near the consummation of the TIMES of the GENTILES and the coming of the FIFTH WORLD-EMPIRE. In this connection I want you to turn to Rev. 13, 7-8: "And it was given him to make war with the Saints, and to overcome them: and power was given unto him over all kindreds and tongues and nations. And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him whose names are not written in the Book of LIFE of the LAMB slain from the foundation of the world." You see it is over this great confederacy that the Anti-Christ shall finally get his power. I shall deal with this question of the Anti-Christ later on.

REV. 16, 14: "For they are the Spirits of the Devils working miracles, which go forth unto the Kings of the earth, and of the whole world, to gather them to battle of that great day of GOD ALMIGHTY."

You see the extent of the authority of the GREAT KINGDOM. The whole world is going to be embroiled in another great war. There, therefore, must be another great world-conqueror, but this can not happen before the end of our dispensation. As long as GOD deals in Grace with mankind there can be no WORLD-EMPIRE. Two attempts have already been made to form a world-empire in our day, but both have been failures. Napoleon tried it in the beginning of the nineteenth century, and now the GERMAN KAISER, the beast of Berlin, has tried it in the beginning of the twentieth century. These attempts, of course, are all of the Devil, but we need not have been afraid had we known the Scriptures.

II. THESS. 2, 3-8: "Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come except there be a falling away first, and that MAN of SIN be revealed, the Son of Perdition: who opposeth himself and exalteth himself above all that is called GOD or that is worshipped; so that he as GOD sitteth in the temple of GOD, showing himself that he is GOD. Remember ye not that while I was yet with you I told you these things And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. For the mystery of Iniquity doth already work: only he who now hindereth will hinder until he be taken out of the way: And THEN shall that WICKED be revealed."

This passage tells us that the Anti-Christ, the MAN of SIN, shall not be revealed until the Holy Spirit takes the Church out of the way, or that is until the Rapture has taken place. Shortly after the Appearing of the LORD this WICKED ONE shall be revealed and ere long get possession of the Confederacy of Nations. Through PEACE he shall destroy many (Dan. 8, 25). We hear a great deal about the PEACE Conference today. We can hardly pick up the papers without reading something about it. It seems to me that every time we should see an account of the peace deliberations we should hear GOD'S warning ringing in our ears: I. Thess. 5, 3: "When they shall say peace and safety, then sudden destruction cometh upon them as travail upon a woman with

child." I tell you, men and women, if any of you intend to make your peace with GOD, it does not pay you in the light of prophecy to delay action many days longer. How shall you escape if you neglect so great salvation?

THE END OF THE TIMES OF THE GENTILES

We have just seen that this FIFTH WORLD-EMPIRE involves all the kingdoms of the WORLD in its power. The ten-king-confederacy will be absolutely in control of all others. Formed for the sake of peace they shall take on the power of war. Russia shall be in it, Great Britain and France will be in it. The kingdoms of the whole world will be involved and this leads me to my last point for this lecture. You read that the "STONE" cut out of the mountains without hands struck the ten toes and ground them to powder. I want you to read the interpretation that GOD has given to this—

DAN. 2, 44: "And in the day of these kings shall the GOD of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms and it shall stand forever."

The STONE is the Kingdom of GOD which Christ has gone to receive and which He shall bring with Him when He comes. It is heavenly, not of the earth. "My kingdom is not of this earth, else would my children fight."

It is for the coming of this Kingdom that we pray. When CHRIST comes in His Glory He shall fight against the Nations as He fought in the day of Battle and He shall destroy them and His kingdom shall be established over the whole earth.

Oh, how many people have been led away by the opinions of men who have openly declared that there shall be no more wars. This was a very popular cry before 1914. NO MORE WARS! And then the Great European War broke upon the world and their mouths were stopped. The cry is already beginning again. No more War! And the terrible battle of Armageddon still looming up in the near future. It is nothing more or less than a little of the remnant of the German propaganda that was intended to hush the Allies to sleep.

They say that the world is getting better and better. Righteousness is increasing and soon the knowledge of the LORD shall cover the whole earth as the waters cover the sea, and some people have believed it in spite of the fact that GOD'S WORD declares the very opposite.

I. TIM. 4, 1: "Now the spirit speaketh expressly that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of Devils."

II. TIM. 3, 13: "Wicked men and seducers shall wax worse and worse deceiving and being deceived."

That does not sound much like great improvement. What does Christ himself say?

MATT. 24, 37: "As it was in the days of Noah so shall it be in the day when the Son of Man cometh."

Thy tell us that the KINGDOM OF GOD shall be established gradually and peacefully, but the OLD BOOK states that it shall be established suddenly and with power.

The STONE cut out of the Kingdom without hands shall smite the ten-king-confederacy and crush it out of existence.

May GOD help us to understand that the TIMES of the GENTILES are antagonistic to his work and to CHRIST. Four of the five world-empires have already passed literally into the annals of history. The fifth is yet to come, a great and terrible one, warring upon the Jewish saints and destroying them. In the meantime, the GREAT GOD is calling upon you and me to put our trust in the Crucified LORD. Be wise and heed the CALL.



The Great Prophetic Break or The Stumbling Stone of the Calculators.

In our former two studies together I have tried to lay the foundation principles that are absolutely essential to a clear understanding of the prophecies of GOD'S WORD. I have tried to do so because I am sure that unless the student of prophecy recognizes these principles he will be forced to distort the plain statements of the BIBLE and will sooner or later meet with apparent contradictions. I am convinced of this, that the main causes of the differences of opinion that have been expressed have their roots in these basic principles.

THE BREAK IN THE TIMES OF HEBREWS MUST BE GRASPED

Now I have no hesitation in saying that if a person will not stop to get clearly in mind the definite statement of Rom. 11, 25, one of two results is inevitable:—

- 1. He will either forsake the whole matter altogether and become indifferent to Prophetical study, or
- 2. He will become wise in his own conceit, as the verse tells us, and begin to fix dates for the occurrence of certain events.

Face the matter fairly. How can a man, who has not learned the fact that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in, hope to understand the prophecies regarding the regathering of Israel from the nations.

EZEK. 37, 21: "Thus saith the Lord God: Behold I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen, whither they be gone, and will gather them on every side and bring them into their own land. And I will make them one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel."

Let me remind you that Israel is not today in their own land, the Promised Land, Palestine. I care not for the moment what your interpretation of Israel is. Palestine does not contain a nation today. Everybody knows that. This prophecy tells us that Israel and Judah are yet to be combined into one nation and to have one king in the Promised Land. This has not happened yet. Therefore the time of the Gentiles is not yet completed and Israel is still in their blindness. The formation of Israel and Judah into one nation is therefore yet future and will take place when CHRIST JESUS, the Messiah, comes. At least that is what Christ said himself.

MATT. 24, 31: "And He shall send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other."

Meanwhile, Israel is scattered in blindness and the times of the Hebrews has ceased temporarily.

THE GREAT PROPHETIC BREAK IN THE TIMES OF GENTILES

In our last lecture I pointed out that five world-empires are to constitute the course of the Gentile TIMES. Four of these have become literal history, but the FIFTH is yet a matter of the future. For the last 1,600 years, that is ever since the days of ROME'S POWER, there has been no world-empire. It is therefore clear to us that we live in the great Prophetic Break in the TIMES of the Gentiles. The Gentile clock has stopped. It struck its last stroke when they nailed our Saviour to the Cross of Cavalry. Now the clock of the "CHURCH" dispensation has begun and for nearly 20 centuries as the years come and go we are reminded of the love and mercy of our GOD. When this dispensation ends or that is when the rapture takes place, the fifth world-empire shall then appear in the form of a ten-king-confederacy, corresponding to the ten toes of the IMAGE.

But some one says, "Does that not seem inconsistent that GOD should make a break in the Times of the Hebrews of some 2.500 years and in the Times of the Gentiles of 1,600 years?" It may appear so, but I am not so sure about that. GOD says so and that should settle it. is a big block on the corner of one of our streets that had its framework constructed some five or six years ago, but for some reason or other-I suppose it was a good one-the owner or contractor did not finish it until this year. That may not seem consistent, but I tell you that does not alter the fact nevertheless. The owner did not plan it to Neither does GOD plan to satisfy our finite minds. please you or me. I do confess, however, that I can see some reason for God making a break in the Time of the Hebrews. When I read the 28th and 29th Chaps. of Deuteronomy, and then think of the idolatry of Israel, I am convinced that GOD could do nothing else and still keep His WORD. And when I see the Cross of CALVARY where the LORD JESUS hung when He bore your sins and mine, I praise His NAME that there ever was a break in the Times of the Gentiles, in which the individual could find his peace with GOD before the terrible time of the end.

THE PROPHETS OF OLD DID NOT KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THIS BREAK

It is most important that we should note in connection with this that the prophets of old knew nothing of this great break. It was hidden from them and when they prophesied they passed it over as if it never was in the plan of GOD. GOD plainly declares this.

ROM. 16, 25: "Now to him that is of power to establish you according to the revelation of the mystery which was kept secret since the world began." It was a mystery hidden from the foundation of the world.

EPHESIANS 3, 2-6: "If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward. How by revelation He made known unto me the mystery—which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by His Spirit"—

It is very plain that the prophets did not know there was such a time as the dispensation of GRACE. They prophesied of the sufferings of CHRIST and the glory that was to follow, as if these two great events followed each other immediately. Thus they could not understand it.

I. PET. 1, 10-12: "Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: searching what or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glory that should follow. Unto whom it was revealed that not unto themselves but unto us they did minister the things which are now reported unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven: which things the angels desire to look into."

What a wonderful passage that is! The real character of the inspiration of GOD'S WORD is plainly evidenced here. It was the SPIRIT that

breathed the message through the prophets. They themselves did not fully comprehend but searched diligently to find out what it could possibly mean. The great prophetic break between the first and second advents of the. LORD was not revealed to them.

Passage after passage declares this fact. Let me take another-

ISA. 61, 1-2: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me: because the Lord hath annointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek: He has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and the opening of the prison to them that are bound: to proclaim the acceptable year of our Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God: to comfort all that mourn."

LUKE 21, 22: "For these be the day's of vengeance that all things that were written may be fufilled."

You see verse 2 speaks of the acceptable year of our Lord. This is right NOW in our dispensation. Then it speaks of the vengeance of our GOD that is yet in the future. At least that is CHRIST'S own interpretation of it (cf. Luke 4, 17-19)—

The days of vengeance are to take place when CHRIST comes in His glory. But the fact remains that this dispensation of GRACE was not known to the prophets and thus it was not included in reckoning the time at which certain events would come to pass. This is most important, for it proves to be—

A STUMBLING STONE TO ALL SPECIFIC CALCULATION IN OUR DAY

There are an ever increasing number of people who are calculating or who are listening to others calculate the exact time when certain events prophesied in Scripture shall take place. These constantly err in that they include this great prophetic break in their calculations. The man who deliberately takes these 20 centuries into the reckoning of dates denies these fundamental facts. Especially is this noticeable in connection with the SECOND COMING OF CHRIST.

For example, they take the expression "seven times" of Dan. 4, 25, which referred to the seven years that Nebuchadnezzar was to live as a beast, and by applying a year for a day declare that the times of the Gentiles shall end 2,520 years from that date. This brings the SECOND COMING OF CHRIST somewhere between 1921 and 1932, according to the date fixed from which the count is made, which some say was 588 B.C., others, 590, 597, 598, 599. I claim this reasoning is in error on two scores: (1) There is no direct reason for applying the year-day principle here; and (2) The Great Prophetic Break of Scripture is ignored altogether. Or take another—

DAN. 8, 13-14: "How long shall be the vision concerning the daily sacrifice and the transgression of desolation, to give both the sanctuary and the host to be trodden under foot? And He said unto me $2{,}300$ days: then shall the sanctuary be cleansed."

Here we are told that 2,300 days will be required to take away the daily sacrifice and set up the abomination image. They apply the year-day principle and counting from 445 B.C. they declare that the daily sacrifice was taken away in 1856 at the end of the Crimean War, when religious toleration was granted in Palestine by the Turks. But is this what is meant by taking away the Daily Sacrifice? There was no temple worship at all at that time. And was the Abomination Image set up then? That surely is a peculiar interpretation of prophecy and arises because they ignore the GREAT PROPHETIC BREAK. The explanation of the passage will be dealt with later. Once more in Dan. 12, 11, we read—

"And from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be 1,290 days."

Are we to conclude from this that there are to be 1,290 years after the Daily Sacrifice is taken away? If so, according to these interpreters we shall expect the end in 3146 A.D. But this passage they pass over and take the next verse—"Blessed is he that cometh to the 1,335 days." In this case they take their count as 636 A.D. when the Turks gained possession of Palestine, not 1856 as they had previously concluded, and they make the time of the end in 1931. How is that done? Not by taking 1,335 years, but by adjusting the 360 day-year to the 365 day-year. By this method 1,335 years is reduced to 1,295 years. These 1,295 years added to 636 A.D. bring them to 1931.

As far as I am concerned, I am willing to take the words of CHRIST as authoritative when He said—

MATT. 24, 35, 42, 44: "But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no not the angels of heaven, but my father only."

GRADUAL REVELATION CHARACTERISTIC OF PROPHECY

Let us ever bear in mind as we continue the study of prophecy that GOD'S METHOD of interpretation is the BIBLE itself. We must be careful of turning to the writings of men.

II. PET. 1, 20: "Knowing this first that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation."

You may, therefore, be assured if your method of interpretation is contrary to this that you are being side-tracked by the Devil. The Bible is the best interpreter of the Bible. If then we come to a passage that we can not understand—a word or an expression that we are not sure about—our best plan is to turn up another passage where the same expression is used and we shall invariably find it explained or used in a connection that we may grasp. That is GOD'S method, and I say again, if your theory or creed or prejudice prevents you from submitting to that principle you may know yourself that something is wrong. Suppose a man comes upon the expression "I will come again" in the Bible, and he wonders what it means.

JOHN 14, 1-3; "Let not your heart be troubled: Ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions. If it were not so I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go away I will come again and receive you unto myself that where I am there ye shall be also."

What does "I will come again" mean? A shopmate tells him that it refers to a spiritual. mystical coming of CHRIST and not to a literal, personal, visible coming. He listens. He is an earnest fellow, and he goes to his minister or some religious friend, who he thinks should know. This friend tells him that this expression refers to one's death. So he is confused by the varied opinions of men. At last he takes up his Bible and finds Acts 1, 11: "Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven, this same JESUS that ye see taken up from you into heaven shall so come in a like manner as ye see him go into heaven." The words seem to stand out in the text—this SAME Jesus—Shall SO come— in LIKE MANNER.

He went up from them in flesh and bones. He was received into a cloud. His feet left the Mount of Olives. He is coming again in the same manner. How? In a cloud—in flesh and bones—to the Mt. of Olives. Surely that is as plain as words can make it.

Students of prophecy soon recognize also that all the truths concerning any prophetic fact are not to be found in one place or in one part of the BIBLE. God reveals it line upon line, and precept upon

precept—here a little and there a little. A student of prophecy must therefore be a broad reader of the whole Bible. Take for example the revelation concerning the MESSIAH, the Redeemer of the world. Gen. 3, 15, we are told that He is to be "the seed of a woman." does not tell us very much at first, but it certainly lays the foundation for his incarnation and virgin birth. In Gen. 9, 26-27, we get further Here we have an indication that the Lord Jehovah was to come of the line of Shem. In Gen. 22, 18, we are told that He is to be of the The limitation is becoming narrowed. seed of Abraham. Ishmaelites were the descendants of Abraham, so GOD states definitely that "In Isaac shall thy seed be called." But Isaac had two sons, Jacob and From Esau the Edmonites descended, so once more GOD plainly indicates in Gen. 28, 14, that Jacob was to be chosen. Now Jacob had twelve sons and Judah was chosen, and further the house of DAVID and so on down to the Virgin Mary. Thus the revelation is plainly and carefully laid out for our instruction

However, not only in the matter of lineage, but in the question of the time it is the same. In Isa. 11, 1, we are told that He shall come when the royal house of David ceased. He is to grow up out of the "Stump of Jesse." The house of David was cut off at least for a time after Zedekiah, 597 B.C. Hence Christ could not come before 597 B.C. Again, Haggai 2, 6-9, tells us that Christ shall come to the Second Temple. This temple was destroyed in A.D. 70. Thus a limit the other way is set. Christ must appear between 597 B.C. and 70 A.D. This gives us a space of more than 600 years. But GOD became more exact in Dan 9, 24-27.

In verses 17, 18, we read that Daniel was praying to GOD concerning the recovery of the Jews from the power of the Gentiles when the Angel Gabriel came and told him that 70 weeks more were appointed to complete the sacrifice of the Messiah for the iniquity of the world and to bring in everlasting righteousness or that is to introduce the Millennium.

"Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most Holy. Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and build Jerusalem unto the Messiah, the Prince shall be seven weeks, and three score and two weeks: the street shall be built again and the wall even in troublous times. And after three score and two weeks shall the Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the Prince that shall comeshall destroy the city and the sanctuary and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined. And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and oblation to cease and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate even until the consummation."

Now the question comes what did this 70 weeks mean? At the time of the prophecy no doubt Daniel could not tell exactly. At least his utterances would indicate as much, for according to the Jewish calendar there are at least three sabbaths or weeks referred to 1. There was the Holy Sabbath or week of DAYS. 2. There was the Land Sabbath, which was a week of years. In the seventh year or Sabbatical year the land was to remain idle. 3. There was the week of Sabbatical years ending in the Jubilee or 50th year, when all slaves went free and return of all rights was made. Now Daniel might not have known which of these was meant but we, who can now look back, can see that it was to the second of these that the prophecy referred, i.e., to the 70 weeks of years or 490 years. (See Lev. 25, 8.)

Now, according to verse 25 the count was to be made from the decree to restore and build the city of Jerusalem. Three decrees are recorded in Scripture—1. That of Cyprus in 536 B.C., as recorded in Ezra 1, 1, but this was to restore the temple or House of God. 2. That of Darius in 521 B.C., as recorded in Ezra 6, but this too was to restore the temple.

3. That of Artaxerxes in 446 B.C., recorded in Neh. 2, 5, and this was to restore the city. Thus it was from the latter that the 490 years were to be counted. From 446 B.C. until the Messiah's crucifixion was therefore to be 7+62=69 weeks of years or 483 years. 483 years of the Jewish economy, reckoning 360 days to the year, is equal to 476 years of 365 days to the year.

Artaxerxes began to reign in 465 B.C. and this decree was issued in the 20th year of his reign, or that is, 446 B.C. You say we are 30 years out. No, the count is not made to Christ's birth, but to His crucifixion, which took place in 34 A.D. Add the 34 to 446 and we get 480 years. That is four years out. No, Historians tell us that when the change in the calendar was made in the sixth century, a mistake of four years was made, which makes the prophecy exact. I do not believe in figuring all these things out to an exact date. I know God's prophecies are fulfilled exactly. When Jesus said, "My time is not yet come," I believe He was referring to the fulfilment of this prophecy. And again, when He declared, "This is the hour in which the Son of Man is to be betrayed," He knew the time exactly.

Now what about the 70th week? Did it follow immediately after the cruciffxion or is it still a matter of the future? If it followed immediately then the seven years would be over in 41 A.D. and the Millennium would begin then and would have ended in 1041 A.D. This is unreasonable. A great prophetic break came and the 70th week will not begin until after the rapture, when the Gentiles will again assume sway untrammelled by the Spirit of GOD. During this period the Anti-Christ will be revealed and he will make a covenant with the Jews for seven years. He will guarantee to give them peaceful temple worship for seven years if they will assist him to the throne of Russia (Dan. 11, 21-23).

In the midst of the week, however, this great ambitious world-conqueror will have secured enough power to tear up the scrap of paper and order the daily sacrifice to cease. This question we shall deal more fully with later.

Remember, please, that in this day we are living in the great PRO-PHETIC BREAK hidden from the prophets of old, but declared now unto us, who live under the shadow of the Cross.

May God help us to grasp the importance of the day in which we live.







